Plant	Number of VRS						
	Executive			Non-Excutlve			
	Works Works	Non-	Total	Works Works	Non-	Total	Grant Total
Managing Training Institute (MTI)	0	5	31	0	3	3	8
Corporate Office (CO)	0	31	31	0	13	13	44
Growth Division Calcutta (GD-Cal)	15	0	IS	0	0	0	IS
Total	1096	926	2022	6576	5019	11595	13617

Revival of Steel Industry

1190. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Steel Industry is not doing well;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what are Government's plans to revive this infrastructure industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) The steel industry in India has been facing a sluggish growth due to slow down in steel consuming sectors for the last few years. This sluggishness is attributable to the following factors:—

(i) Overall economic slow down in the country;

(ii) Cost escalation in input materials for steel industry;

(iii) Arrival of cheaper imports;

(iv) Dumping of finished steel by CIS and other countries;

(v) Adverse condition in export market for steel; an* (vi) Decrease in domestic and international prices of Steel.

(c) The Steel producers and the Government have taken several steps to overcome the difficulties in the steel sector. These include:—

To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Devleopment Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI&S) has launched a National Campaign for increasing the demand for steel, especially in non-traditional sectors, such as, rural and agrobased industrial sector.

The lie rationalisation of customs duty structure and 10% Surcharge on Basic Custom Duty proposed in the Budget of 1999-2000 has marginally increased the import duty on certain finish steel items. This is expected to provide some relief from cheap imports of steel.

— Anti dumping duty on Hot Rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been notified.

— Government has announced floor prices on certain finished steel items including seconds and defectives with a view of restrict their imports at very low prices which was adversely affecting the domestic market.

— Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.

— A 'Steel Exporters Forum' has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.

— Main producers are orienting product mix to suit the market requirements and adjusting production in tune with change in the market demand.

— Producers are developing and nourishing long term customer relationship by entering into MOUs^upply arrangement with the customers.

— The steel producers have taken steps to reduce costs and imrjrove techno-economic parameters.